

Disabilities and Rehabilitation - Medicaid Data and Reports**Trends and Perspectives, December 2000**

The purpose of Trends and Perspectives is to provide statistical and programmatic information concerning the Indiana Medicaid program. As the title implies, the report is designed to allow the reader to compare recent operating results with historical trends and, in a number of sections, to compare Indiana results with those in other states. In this way, it is hoped that policymakers and other persons interested in the Medicaid program will better be able to understand the impact and implication of actions taken over time to reform or revise the program.

Data Issues

To better understand and interpret the information contained in the report, it is important to understand the source and nature of the data presented. Most of the statistical information in Trends and Perspectives is based on claims data by date of payment. In contrast, for budget forecasting purposes, OMPP prepares a different report that projects claims payments by date of services in order to estimate the liability of the Medicaid program. Because it may take years for all the claims for services in the current years to be paid, OMPP contracts with actuaries to estimate current and future liabilities for budget forecasting purposes.

The advantage of reporting by date of payment is that the complete data are available soon after the year is over. Unlike OMPP's Medicaid budget forecasts, reports by date of payment are not estimated and will not change for a given reporting period. However, there are also disadvantages of using date of payment. Shortcomings of reporting by date of payment result from the influence of claims payment patterns. Unfortunately, claims payment patterns often obscure actual service patterns when analyzing expenditures by date of payment.